

CLAIMS

1. A mesh sleeve adapted for use with a device suitable for insertion into a bodily cavity such that in use the sleeve envelopes the body of the device, and wherein the sleeve comprises a pharmaceutical agent disposed thereon.
- 5 2. A sleeve according to claim 1, wherein the sleeve is adapted for use with a device suitable for insertion into the vaginal, rectal, nasal or buccal cavity.
3. A mesh sleeve according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said sleeve has one open end and one substantially closed end.
4. A mesh sleeve according to claim 1 or claim 2, which is open at both ends.
- 10 5. A mesh sleeve according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said mesh sleeve can expand when the device expands during use.
6. A mesh sleeve according to claim 5, wherein the ability to expand is conferred by the presence of an overlap of mesh material.
- 15 7. A mesh sleeve according to claim 5, wherein the ability to expand is conferred by the elasticity of the mesh material.
8. A mesh sleeve according to claim 5, wherein the ability to expand is conferred by a combination of the elasticity of the mesh material and the presence of an overlap of mesh material.
9. A mesh sleeve according to any one of claims 1 to 8, which comprises a tethering component suitable for attachment of the sleeve to the body of the device.
- 20 10. A mesh sleeve according to claim any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the material from which the mesh sleeve is made is cotton, such as non-wettable cotton.
11. A mesh sleeve according to any one of claims 1 to 10, which has 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 10, 20, 50, 100 or more discrete pharmaceutical coupons attached thereto.

12. A mesh sleeve according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said pharmaceutical agent is formulated with one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable excipients and/or carriers.
13. A mesh sleeve according to claim 12, additionally comprising a wetting-agent.
- 5 14. A mesh sleeve according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said pharmaceutical agent is in the form of a sustained release composition.
15. A mesh sleeve according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of pharmaceutical agent disposed on the surface is between 10 µg and 1 g.
- 10 16. A mesh sleeve according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein said one or more pharmaceutical agents are selected from one or more members of the group consisting of an anti-fibrinolytic agent, such as tranexamic acid or aminocaproic acid; an anti-inflammatory agent, such as ibuprophen or mefenamic acid; a tocolytic agent, such as hyoscine or ritrodine; a haemostasis-modifying agent; sex steroid; glucocorticoid; mineralocorticoid and dietary supplements.
- 15 17. A mesh sleeve according to any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein said device is an intra-nasal device or an intra-rectal device, and wherein said one or more pharmaceutical agents are selected from one or members of the group consisting of adrenaline, sodium nitroprusside, anti-emetics, such as ondansetron, anti-migraines, such as sumatriptan, a bronchodilator such as salbutamol or theophylline, or diuretics such as frusemide.
- 20 18. A mesh sleeve according to any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein said mesh sleeve is attached to backing.
19. A mesh sleeve substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.
20. A mesh sleeve in conjunction with a device as hereinbefore described with reference to
25 and as shown in the accompanying drawings.
21. An intra-vaginal, intra-rectal, intra-nasal or intra-buccal apparatus comprising a mesh sleeve according to any one of the preceding claims, and a device adapted for insertion into the vagina, rectum, nasal or buccal cavity, respectively.

22. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the body of the device is made from an absorbent material.
23. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said absorbent material is cellulose or cellulose derivative fibres, cotton, starch, rayon, sponge, woodpulp, polyolefin,
5 polyester, polyamide, polyurethane, cross-linked carboxymethylcellulose, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methyl propane sulphonic acid or a mixture thereof, or a hydrogel.
24. An apparatus according to any one of claims 21 to 23, wherein said device is a tampon.
25. An apparatus according to any one of claims 21 to 24 further comprising inserting
10 means.
26. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said inserting means comprises a first hollow cylindrical tube defining a cartridge for receiving said device and a second hollow cylindrical plunger slidably received within said first cylindrical tube.
27. The mesh sleeve according to any one of claims 1 to 20 or apparatus according to any
15 one of claims 21-26 for use in therapy.
28. A method of treating a disease in a patient, comprising administering a pharmaceutical agent to the patient using a mesh sleeve according to any one of claims 1 to 20 or an apparatus according to any one of claims 20-26.
29. Use of a mesh sleeve according to any one of claims 1 to 20 or apparatus according to
20 any one of claims 21-26, for use in the management of female-specific disorders, such as conditions associated with the menstrual cycle including dysmenorrhea, endometriosis, fibroids and heavy menstrual bleeding.
30. A method according to claim 28, or use according to claim 29, wherein the pharmaceutical agent is an anti-inflammatory agent, for providing pain relief after
25 blood clotting.
31. Use of a mesh sleeve according to any one of claims 1 to 20 or apparatus according to any one of claims 21-26, for absorbing blood and stopping bleeding during dental procedures.

32. A method according to claim 28, or use according to claim 31, wherein the pharmaceutical agent is a fibrinolytic inhibitor.